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TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE TEAM FOR EMERGENCY RESPONSE REMOVAL AND PREVENTION
EPA CONTRACT 68-01-7367

Mr. Duane Heaton
Deputy Project Officer
Emergency Support Section, 5 HS-11
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
230 South Dearborn Street
Chicago, IL 60604

October 13, 1989

TAT-05-G2-01418

Re: HIMCO Inc. Site, Elkhart, Indiana
TDD- 5-8908-28

Dear Mr. Heaton:

On August 23, 1989, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (U.S. EPA) tasked the Technical Assistance Team (TAT) to review the HIMCO Inc. (HIMCO) National Priority List (NPL) site for a possible removal action. After review of the available files and consultations with Elkhart Water Department officials, the TAT conducted a site investigation on October 10, 1989. This letter report summarizes the TAT activities.

The HIMCO site is located along the northwest edge of Elkhart and Jamestown, directly to the south of the airport (Figure 1 and Figure 2). The HIMCO site was an 30 acre, privately owned landfill which accepted a variety of commercial, residential, medical and industrial wastes. The landfill is located in a lightly commercial and residential area. Open fields border to the north and east, and light residential and commercial areas border to the south and west.

Surficial geology at HIMCO is characterized by Pleistocene age valley train outwash deposits. The deposits of glacial till are mainly composed of silty sand interbedded with clay and silt units. The average thickness of these unconsolidated deposits is 175 feet, although located directly beneath the HIMCO site exists a former valley of Mississippian age. Thickness of the aquifer in this area has been documented by the U.S. Geological Society (USGS) to be as much as 450 feet. Ground water directional flow at the site is to the south as determined by several monitoring wells located around the perimeter of the site. The HIMCO site was originally a swampy low-lying area. After the closing of HIMCO, the surface elevation of the landfill had risen approximately 5 feet grade. A one foot thick layer of sand was used as an overlay on the landfill.

Roy F. Weston, Inc.

SPILL PREVENTION & EMERGENCY RESPONSE DIVISION

In Association with ICF Technology Inc., C.C. Johnson & Malhotra, P.C., Resource Applications, Inc.,
Geo/Resource Consultants, Inc., and Environmental Toxicology International, Inc.



FIGURE 1

SITE LOCATION MAP
HIMCO INC SITE
ELKHART, INDIANA
SCALE 1/2 INCH = 5 MILES



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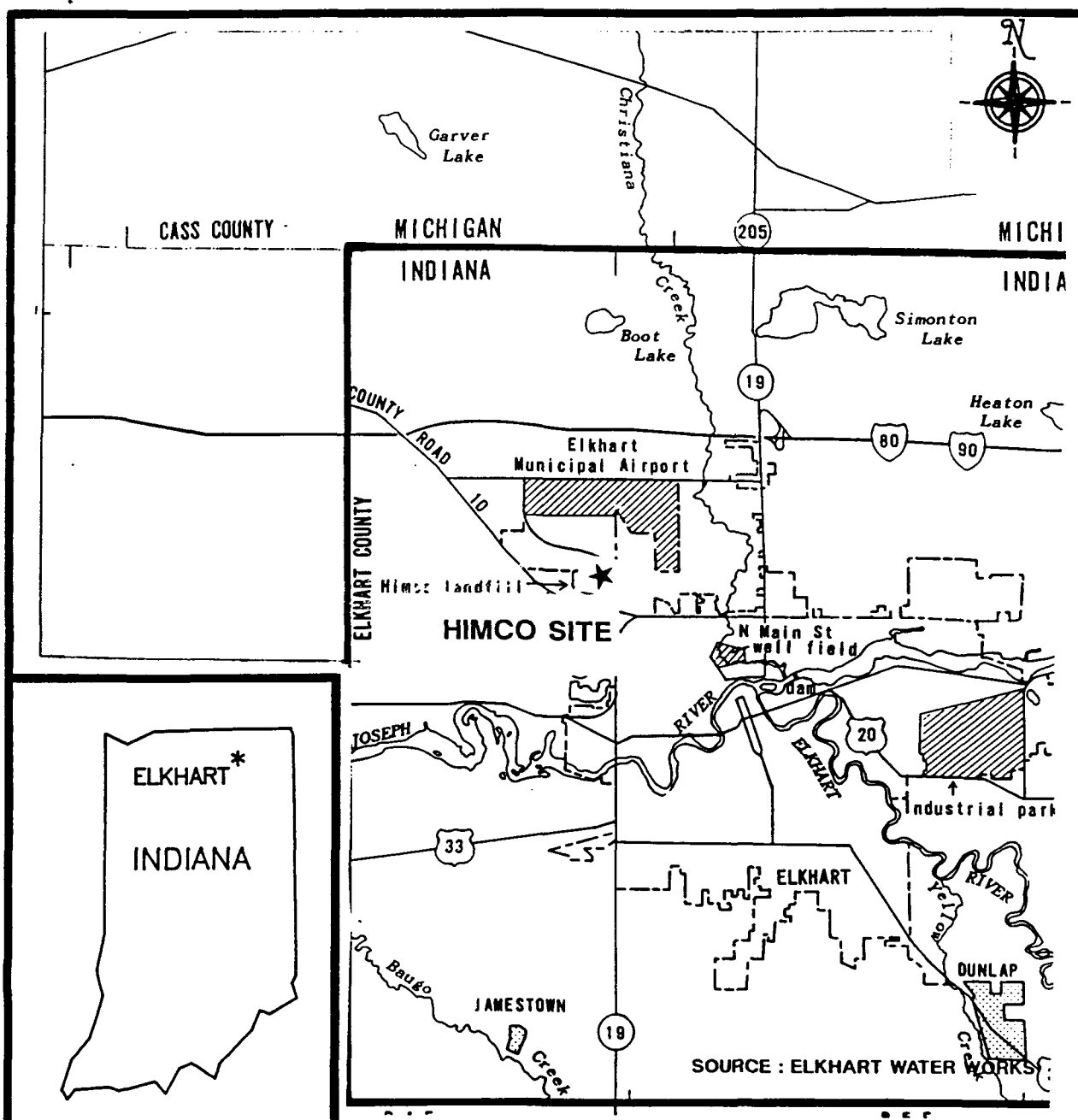


FIGURE 2
 SITE LOCATION MAP
 HIMCO INC SITE
 ELKHART, INDIANA
 SCALE 1 INCH = 1.5 MILES



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Mr. Duane Heaton

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According to the Indiana Department of Environmental Management (IDEM) and the Elkhart Water Works, the HIMCO site was operated from 1960 to 1977 by HIMCO Waste Away Services, Inc. The company hauled and disposed of waste from most of Elkhart's major commercial and industrial business during this period.

In 1971, the Indiana State Board of Health (ISBH) identified the HIMCO site as an open dump. In 1974, residents complained that shallow wells immediately adjacent to southern border of the site had taste, odor and color problems. In 1977, the ISBH forced the closure of HIMCO. Wells were dug to prepare for closing. The HIMCO site reportedly has not accepted waste since 1977.

Beginning in 1982 samples were collected from various wells, on and surrounding the HIMCO site on a yearly basis. According to Lee Watson of the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) traces of trichloroethylene (TCE), toluene and other volatile organic compounds (VOCs) were detected in ground water. The concentrations of these compounds in the ground water samples were very low; therefore, sampling was to be conducted every three years instead of annually.

On October 10, 1989, TAT member Tammy Dillard and Kevin Axe met with Larry Sears of the Elkhart Water Department. Mr. Sears supplied the TAT with information about the HIMCO site. According to Mr. Sears all residents downgradient of the HIMCO site obtain water from municipal wells. Residents 100 feet north (upgradient) of the HIMCO site, on Westwood Street, utilize private wells. By 1991 all residences located north of HIMCO will be accessible to municipal water.

The TAT conducted a visual perimeter survey of the HIMCO site. Access to the site was unrestricted. The TAT observed large steel objects, rubbish, debris and an on-site pond. The on-site pond is fenced, but the gates were observed to be broken. The site was heavily vegetated and no signs of stressed vegetation or stained soil were observed.

Based on TAT observation at the HIMCO site, the conditions outlined in Section 300.65 (b) (2) of the National Contingency Plan to be considered in determining the appropriateness of a removal action do not appear to be present.



Mr. Duane Heaton

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October 13, 1989

Should you have any questions or require additional information, please feel free to contact us.

Very truly yours,

ROY F. WESTON, INC.

Tammy Dillard

Tammy Dillard
Environmental Scientist

Sally Matz

for William R. Doyle
Technical Assistance Team
Leader, Region V

TD:dn
Attachment
cc: B. Bowden